



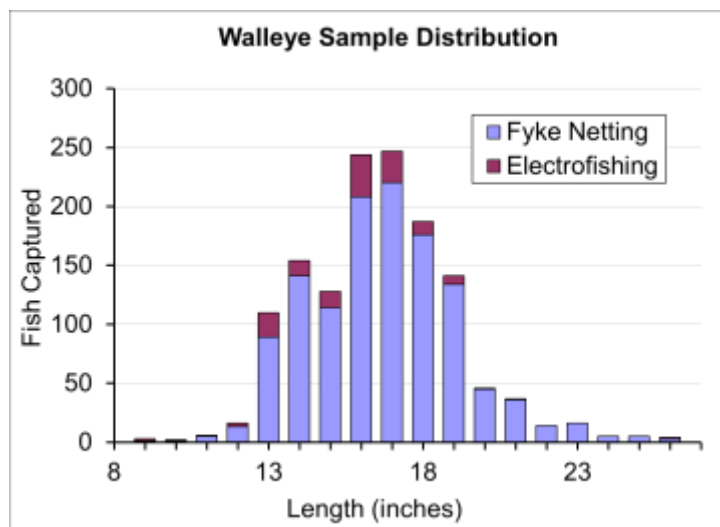
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fishery Information Sheet

LAKE: Cranberry Lake

COUNTY: Price

YEAR: 2017 – 2018

Cranberry Lake is a shallow, 512-acre impoundment near the source of the North Fork Jump River that supplies irrigation to a commercial cranberry grower located immediately downstream. Maximum and average depths are 18 and 6.6 feet, and 34% of the surface area is less than 3 feet deep. Muck and peat are the predominant lakebed materials. Boulders armor the lakeside face of the dike, and gravel and rubble remain sediment-free along the windswept shores of islands and points. Wind action also prevents lasting thermal stratification in summer. Cranberry Lake is highly eutrophic, having nutrient levels capable of producing high algal and plant biomass. Decaying plant matter beneath the ice has occasionally caused oxygen depletion and fish mortality—last reported in 1982. Shoreland development is limited to a few commercial and residential structures near the dike. On the east shore WDNR manages a boat landing and the 225-acre Cranberry Lake Fishery Area. Fyke netting at ice-out targeted walleye and northern pike. In late spring 2018 when water temperature was 66°F, WDNR assessed bass and bluegill populations by electrofishing. Our fall 2017 netting effort specifically focused on black crappies, but it also provided useful information on bluegills.



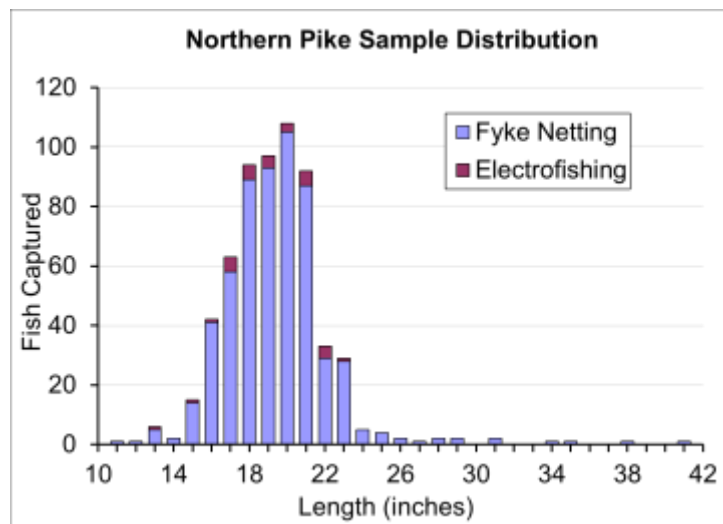
Walleye

Spring fyke nets captured 1,287 walleyes at a rate of 107 fish ≥ 10 " per net-night. Those captured only once ranged 9.6 – 26.5" and averaged 17.2" long. Most walleye in our netting sample were legal-size fish—70% were 15 – 20", and 1% was 24" or longer. Early spring electrofishing captured 184 walleyes 9.0 – 26.5" at a rate of 29 fish ≥ 10 " per mile or 59 per hour. In 2018 estimated walleye population density was 8.2 adults per acre. Our fall electrofishing capture rate of 6.0 fingerlings per mile indicated that walleye produced a year class of natural recruits in 2018, but the addition was below the

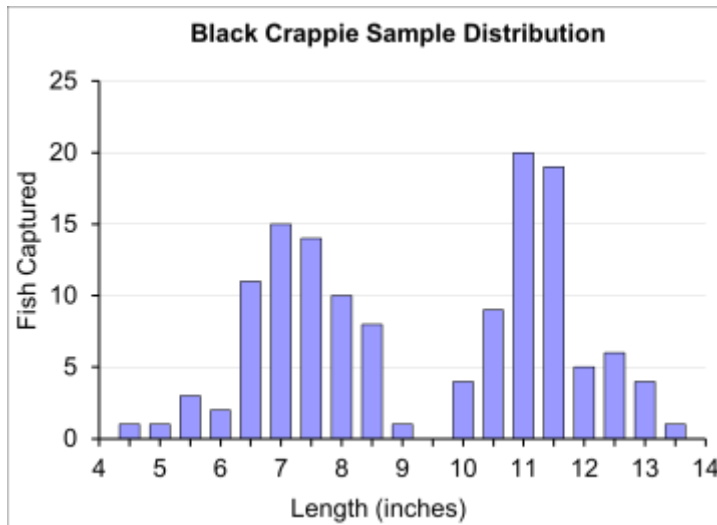
long-term average in northern Wisconsin. Ring counts on sectioned dorsal spines revealed that males grew to 13.9" in 3 years and 15.2" in 4 years. Female walleyes reached 20.6" in 8 years. Growth outpaced the regional average for both sexes combined by about a half inch at those ages.

Northern Pike

Spring fyke nets captured 588 pike at a rate of 48 fish ≥ 14 " per net-night. Excluding 13 fish caught more than once, they ranged 11.7 – 41.2" and averaged 19.8" long. Electrofishing in early spring captured 35 pike 6.7 – 23.0" at rates of 5.2 pike ≥ 14 " per mile or 11 per hour. Estimated population density was 5.7 adult pike per acre in spring 2018. Nearly 93.5% of pike ≥ 14 " in our combined samples were 16 - 24". Despite its demonstrated ability to produce trophy-size pike at least 42" long, only 1% of pike in our samples



was 30" or longer, perhaps because anglers tend to keep the largest pike they catch.



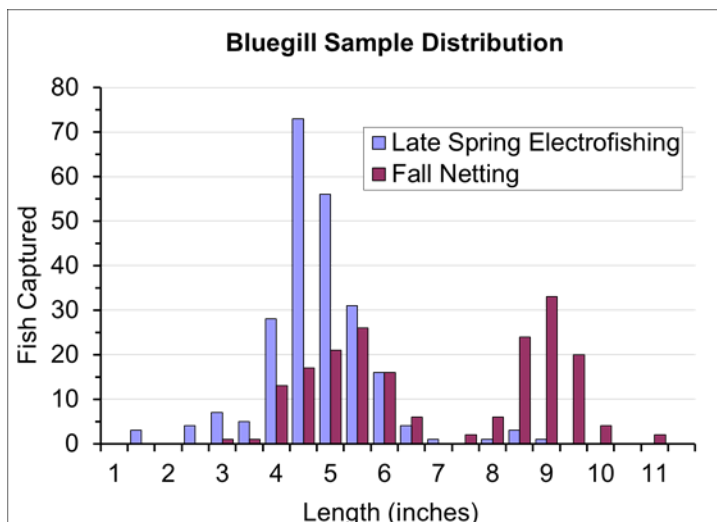
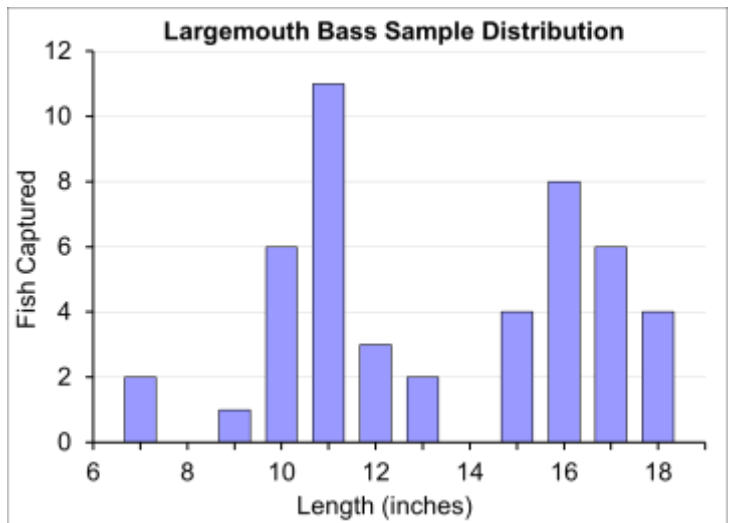
Black Crappie

Fall fyke nets specifically set for black crappies captured 134 crappies that ranged 4.6 – 13.5" and averaged 9.5" long. Our catch rate of 7.4 crappies $\geq 5"$ per net-night indicated the moderate population abundance needed for fast growth that produces plenty of large fish. Ring counts on ear bones extracted from 8 crappies 9.9 – 10.7" revealed that crappies in Cranberry Lake grew to 10.3" in 5 years—an inch longer than the regional average at that age. One crappie grew to 10.3" in 4 years, far exceeding the average length of 8.3" among age-4 crappies in northern Wisconsin. The population's size structure should satisfy even the

choosiest panfish anglers. Half the crappies in our fall nets were 10" and longer, and 12% were at least 12" long. Crappie abundance and size nearly matched our fall 2011 measures.

Largemouth Bass

In our late spring electrofishing survey, we caught 47 largemouth bass that ranged 7.3 – 18.7" and averaged 13.8" long. Catch rates of 11 bass $\geq 8"$ per mile and 23 per hour indicated low to moderate population abundance. Legal-size bass $\geq 14"$ comprised about half of our sample, and 22% were at least 17" long. Our measures suggest that bass population abundance did not change, and size distribution shifted somewhat since our last survey in spring 2012 when we caught 11 bass per mile, 91% were legal-size fish, and 2% were 17" and longer.



Bluegill

In late spring we dip-netted 233 bluegills at electrofishing capture rates of 226 fish $\geq 3"$ per mile and 411 per hour that indicated moderate to high population abundance. Still, their size distribution offered favorable fishing opportunity. They ranged 1.5 – 9.1" and averaged 5.0" long. About 2% of bluegills in our electrofishing sample were 8" or longer. Sometimes fyke nets capture higher percentages of large bluegills that go undetected by electrofishing. Fall nets captured 192 bluegills ranging 3.3 – 11.3" and averaging 7.1" at a rate of 10.7 fish $\geq 3"$ per net-night with 46% at least 8" and 3% at least 10"

long. Early spring fyke nets caught 277 bluegills or 23 per net-night, but we measured none from that survey. Bluegill population abundance has increased, and its size structure has diminished somewhat since our last assessments in 2012 when late spring electrofishing captured 85 per mile or 147 per hour and 21% were at least 8".

Yellow Perch

We have no samples to confidently describe perch status, but indications pieced together from netting surveys in spring and fall point to moderate population abundance with larger perch than we usually find in most of the waters we manage. Fall 2017 fyke nets captured 13 perch at a rate of 0.7 fish ≥ 5 " per net-night. They ranged 5.7 – 11.1" and averaged 7.7". Spring nets caught 301 perch or 25 per net-night. Of those, we selectively measured the largest perch and found individuals 13 and 14" long.

For questions or additional information contact:

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